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FRIDAY
AUGUST 7, 1953

[illegible]her lovely day. I was so sunburned yesterday that I must approach the [illegible]utiously.

The strikes in the public services, which started forty-eight hours ago with a cessation of work in postal, telegraph and telephone facilities, have now widened to include a twenty-four hour strike on the railroads and a threatened shutdown of electricity and gas. The Government functionaries, apparently fearful that the Laniel Cabinet may reduce the number of bureaucrats in an economy drive, are waging a preventive campaign.

After lunch we took the children and boys and drove over to La Turballe via Guérande. The latter is a beautiful walled village. La Turballe was thronged with fishing boats, mostly in the sardine trade, gaily painted, many of them with iridescent blue nets. We saw a few minutes of the fish auction, conducted, as regards the purchasers, much like tobacco auctions in Southside Virginia, the bids being by signs such as the winking of one eye.

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